

quate safeguards to prevent the large scale collapse that we saw in our nation in 1929 and the early thirties?

We must face the fact that there are thirty-four million people in our nation, one-fifth of the population, who are living at and below the poverty level which means they do not have the means to live according to the minimal standards of decency and health.

This problem affects all sections of the population. There are men of forty who cannot get a job because they are too old. It is now predicted that children born in our State today will never know what it is to have a job unless we put our minds and our skills and our hearts together to provide for a correlation of the forces of science and the needs of man so that we can have full and continuing employment in our State for those who want to work and for those who are prepared to work.

We should know that more and more men of fifty, men of fifty-five, men of sixty, who are physically able, are being sent to pasture because there is no room within our state employment system for them to work. And, of course, with our young people emerging into the mainstream there is chronically high and disproportionate unemployment. The papers were full this morning of a decrease in the national unemployment rate from August, but then it seesaws up and down.

We must face the fact that full time unemployment in our nation rose from 2.9 per cent of the civilian labor force in 1953 to 5.3 per cent during the first half of 1964. Not only are men idle, but physical resources are idle. There is what economists call a production gap, the difference between actual production and maximum production which rose from an estimated three-tenths per cent of maximum production in 1953 to an estimated 11.7 per cent in the first half of 1964. The chronically rising tide of idle man power and plant correlates with the inadequate United States economic growth rate.

What is more important in the life of a man than the right to have a job? There was an old sociologist at the University of Pennsylvania who taught us that work is to man what play is to a child. We will fail this generation and the generation to come unless we evolve a concept which will be a mandate to the General Assembly and to the executive leadership of our State and in our political subdivisions to come together, private and public, in the private

and public sectors, and make provisions for the needs of man.

I just call attention to the fact that in Maryland five areas of our State are still designated depressed areas, and eligible for aid under the Federal Area Redevelopment Act of 1961, Public Law 8727. Following are the standards which are used in determining whether an area is depressed: Has there been chronic, continuing unemployment which is one hundred per cent above the national average in one of the immediate past two years preceding the date of determination? Is there seventy-five per cent above the national average of chronic continuing unemployment for the past three years preceding the date of determination? Is there fifty per cent above the national average of four years for the past four years preceding the date of determination?

Now, what are those areas? Baltimore City's inner port just escaped being declared a distressed area, but Crisfield in Somerset County, Cambridge in Dorchester County, Oakland area in Garrett County, Prince Frederick area of Calvert County in southern Maryland, and the Cumberland area of Allegany County in Western Maryland are still distressed areas in our State. Therefore, we believe that we should state in our constitution the right of the citizens to have the State provide for their continuing employment where there is the will to work and where they are physically able, or to train them for the employment in this highly technological age.

I would like to say in closing that the bill of rights is the most fundamental and basic of all the articles in our constitution because it is the foundation upon which the superstructure of government rests. We must be responsive to the changing needs in our society. Otherwise there would be no need to meet in a constitutional convention for revision and reform. I say to you again, ours is a nation of affluence, with chronically high unemployment, with a substantial portion of our population inadequately prepared for work in the forty to sixty age bracket. There is also a lack of the kind of training in our schools that will prepare our young people for this new technological age.

We need a mandate to the State to get busy. This State has prior to this time responded only to crisis and it has been government by crisis, and we call for the courage and the foresight of our State in preventing the catastrophe which is ahead, if we will but see it.